Identification tricks of the Trade Carl A. Olson, Entomologist Thanks to Jillian Cowles and Alex Yelich for









Life Stages

- Order Hemiptera
- Egg-nymph-adult
- Nymph: wing buds externally seen
- Adults: beak instead of mandibles, Forewing modification-hemelytra
- Wings held flat over body



Key Features for Hemiptera



- Hemelytra
- Beak







Taxonomy is Precise Observation

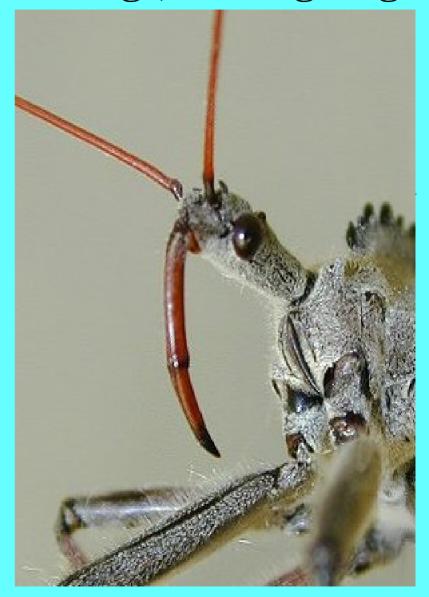


- Structures to look at:
- Shape of head
- Eye position; width between compound eyes
- Antennal segment size
- Rostral length
- Don't be fooled by colors
- What do you see in these two insects?

Family Reduviidae: Assassin Bugs, Kissing Bugs







More Examples









Now for AZ Triatoma species:



Characters for T. rubida





- Nymphal Characters
- Orange median head stripe
- Posterior orange spots, abdominal segments
- Broad Pronotum, narrow wing buds
- Adult Characters:
- Broad shorter head
- Short stout snout
- 1st antennal segment reaches tip
- Narrow abdomen more markedly orange trimmed

Triatoma recurva





- Nymphal characters:
- No head markings
- Abdominal segments edged entirely in orange
- Wing buds widely divergent
- Distinct median orange spots on abdomen
- Adult Character
- Elongate, pointed head
- Snout extremely pointed
- 1st Antennal Segment not reaching tip of snout
- Abdomen exceedingly wide and concave, narrow orange edging

Triatoma protracta





5 subspecies described

T. protracta protracta widespread

T. p. navajoensis: Colorado Plateau

T. p. woodi: Rio Grande Drainage

T. p. zacatecensis: C. Mexican Plateau

T. p. nahuatlae: Sonora & Sinaloa

Adult characters

Head elongate, 1st antennal not reaching tip: Snout pointed

Abdomen narrow, mostly dark: Note typical light X formed by forewings

Note pruinosity on pronotum of navajoensis

Triatoma indictiva





- Similar in shape to T. recurva
- Head broader between eyes
- Abdominal segments marked by thin orange bands

Compare Nymphs



- Head shape
- Wing pad design
- Abdominal markings





Compare Adults





Mistaken identities





- Coreidae: large visible populations, plant associates, but brown with wings similar
- Largid bugs, seed eaters with orange abdominal markings